

Tri-Board

18 DECEMBER 2018 | 7:30 PM | BOE CONFERENCE ROOM BOE Offices | 66

PROSPECT STREET RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees

In attendance: R. Marconi, S. Zemo, M. Kozlark, B. Hebert, J. Mancini, D. Ulmer, D. Moccia, A. Freidenrich, S. Connelly (via phone), D. Silver, J. Paddyfote, M. Stamatis, T. O'Connor, J. Keidel, S. D'Orso, C. Borgia-Drake

Agenda

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 pm by D. Ulmer.

Overview of Current Budget: Kevin Redmond, Controller, Town of Ridgefield and Dawn Norton, Business Manager, BOE

Kevin Redmond

For FYE 18, town revenues were favorably impacted by the tax revenue favorability and higher than expected interest income. Expenses were also favorable to budget and the combined favorability was \$1.2M which means we won't need the full \$1.8M designated use of fund balance. Fund Balance closed the year at 9.7% of current year expenditures. For FYE 19 the Board of Finance was conservative in regards to state revenues which will create favorability. In addition tax revenues will be favorable due to a tax sale. Expenses appear to be tracking to budget and at this point it is forecasted that net favorability will be approximately \$1M, and primarily from revenues. The current debt position is very good and being aggressively paid down. The Town recently bonded \$12.4M at a rate of 3.15%, and received a AAA from Moody's.

Dawn Norton

The BOE is monitoring special education and transportation costs. Potential risks to the budget include legal and weather driven costs. Potential opportunities to the budget include special education costs if more students are in-placement versus out-placement.

D, Moccia inquired as to the number of special education students in the district and discussed regionalization. D. Ulmer inquired about ECR. A. Freidenrich questioned whether there can be any efficiencies between the BOE and Town regarding IT costs and services. S. Zemo discussed potential efficiencies between the BOE and Town in other areas as well. R. Marconi discussed the potential to leverage purchasing between the BOE and Town.

Comments from the Public

Caroline Chanin praised Mr. Santasiero of Scotland school and questioned many of the school administrators' decisions.

Comments from the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance: M. Stamatis, BOE, Chairman, Rudy Marconi, First Selectman, and Dave Ulmer, Board of Finance, Chairman

BOE

M. Stamatis discussed the demographic report and enrollment projections and the impact on staffing. Also, discussed were the FYE 20 capital improvement plan and noted that BOE related revenues is a topic that the BOE would like to review and potentially discuss with the Town

J. Paddyfote discussed the budget development process and budget drivers.

R. Marconi discussed a number of Town projects including Schlumberger, solar on school buildings, Branchville TOD, Main Street, the Venus building and the Sewer plant upgrade.

R. Marconi discussed the Town's recent incentive retirement plan that impacted eleven people and layoffs which impacted two people. It is estimated that these actions will save approximately \$500K per year. The Town's goal is to present a budget that has a 0% increase.

D. Ulmer discussed the town budget and that there was a decent surplus this year. The General Fund will be around 9.7% and our guidelines as a Board are between 8-9%. Given that, D. Ulmer feels the board could probably use \$1.6M of Fund Balance for FYE 20. D. Ulmer also voiced concern over changes to the tax law which will limit the deduction for state and local tax deductions, and the impact it will have on the residents of Ridgefield.

A general discussion ensued about teacher pensions, BOE capital and impact to debt service. D. Silver discussed the urgent need for more capital for the BOE in order to address basic needs such as leaking roofs, non-functioning bathrooms and an array of areas where the school capital needs have not been addressed. It was agreed that an ad hoc committee be formed to analyze the issue and make recommendations. The committee will consist of two members of the BOS and two members of the BOF and BOE officials.

General Discussion from All Three Boards

None

Adjournment

D. Ulmer moved and J. Mancini seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Redmond